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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 VILNIUS 001350

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/NB, EUR/RPM, AND INR/B

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/28/2014

TAGS: [PARM](#) [MOPS](#) [LH](#)

SUBJECT: LITHUANIA: RUSSIAN TEAM COMPLETES UNEVENTFUL VDOC INSPECTION

REF: STATE 226131

Classified By: POL/ECON OFFICER TREVOR BOYD  
FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

[11.](#) (C) Summary. A team from the Russian Federation conducted a Vienna Document inspection of Lithuanian military facilities on October 27-28. The inspection covered army and air force facilities in Kaunas, Panevezys, and Siauliai, including NATO's Baltic air policing assets at the Zokniai airfield. The GOL, assisted by a J-6 team from the United Kingdom, escorted the Russian team through an uneventful inspection. Reports from the field indicate that the Russian team was more than satisfied with all aspects of the inspection. Lithuania's willingness to be open, flexible, and transparent, exceeding the requirements of the Vienna Document, demonstrated that the GOR could and should utilize existing inspection mechanisms to gain confidence in NATO's presence in the Baltics. End Summary.

[12.](#) (SBU) The Government of Lithuania, in response to a Vienna document request (reftel A), hosted a team of Russian Federation (RF) inspectors on October 27-28. Lithuanian military officials, and two officers from the United Kingdom's J-6 Division, accompanied the team of four Russian military officers as they inspected, by helicopter and car, an area that included military installations near the cities of Kaunas, Panevezys and Siauliai. The Russian team conducted a complete inspection of NATO's Baltic air policing assets, including British F-3 Tornado aircraft, at the Zokniai airfield.

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Day One  
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[13.](#) (SBU) The RF team, following the itinerary proposed by the GOL, entered the inspection area at Rukla, approximately 30 kilometers north of Kaunas, on the morning of October 27. Military installations around Rukla include the Grand Duke Algirdas motorized infantry battalion, maneuvering elements of the Iron Wolf Brigade, and a conscript training center. The GOL provided three briefings to the RF team in Rukla before traveling to Kaunas, where the team boarded a helicopter and completed an aerial survey of the inspection area. (Note: Though the GOL denied the RF request to use GPS equipment, the team was allowed to monitor the helicopter's GPS readings during the aerial inspection.) After the aerial inspection, the team had a briefing at Lithuanian Air Force Headquarters in Kaunas.

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Day Two  
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[14.](#) (SBU) The RF team traveled by car on the morning of October 28 to Siauliai and received a briefing at Lithuania's First Air Force Base. The team toured the Zokniai airfield, where they met with the leadership of the NATO Detachment, and viewed the British F-3 Tornados and storage sites. The team visited Panevezys and received a briefing before inspecting the King Mindaugas motorized infantry battalion.

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Departure  
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[15.](#) (U) The RF team will depart Vilnius on October 29 around 17:00 local time. Social events are scheduled during the day.

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Comments from the Field  
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[16.](#) (C) We received several updates from the MFA during the RF team's visit. All reports from the field were extremely positive, noting that the inspection progressed perfectly as planned, with no special surprises or requests from the RF team. Interlocutors said the RF team was "relaxed" and "happy" with the inspection.

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Comment

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17. (C) Lithuania went above and beyond the letter of the Vienna Document and repeatedly illustrated its willingness to be open, flexible, and transparent during the inspection by allowing, for example, the RF team to fully inspect the NATO assets and storage sites at the Zokniai airfield. The GOL again demonstrated its commitment to addressing Russian concerns about NATO's air policing mission in the Baltics, and validated NATO's position that the Russian Federation should utilize existing inspection mechanisms to build confidence.

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